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PRESS RELEASE

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Investigation of former Auditor's Office Employee Concluded

The Madera County District Attorney's Office has announced the conclusion of an investigation and recovery of funds from a former employee of the Auditor's Office. According to District Attorney Michael R. Keitz, \$5317 was recovered from Pamela Hunsaker-Ruiz, who was the county's Payroll Services Department Supervisor until August 19th, 2008.

The recovery of funds resulted from an investigation of the Payroll Services Department of the Madera County Auditor's Office in 2008 and 2009. The investigation, which was initiated by the Madera County Sheriff's Department, revealed that Hunsaker-Ruiz's personal payroll was greater than the amount she was entitled to receive between March 2007 and February 2008. In response to the evidence submitted by the District Attorney's office to the Madera County Grand Jury, it was concluded there was insufficient evidence to file criminal charges against Hunsaker-Ruiz. However, the Grand Jury recommended the District Attorney initiate proceedings to recover the overpayment of payroll funds to Hunsaker-Ruiz. The ensuing efforts of the District Attorney's Office resulted in the recovery.

The investigation of Hunsaker-Ruiz began after the Grand Jury conducted a broader investigation into the affairs of the Madera County Auditor's Office in 2008. The former Auditor, Robert Dewall, resigned from his post upon conclusion of that investigation.